

WHERE ARE THE ORIGINAL TEN COMMANDMENTS? 10

Where are the tablets of stone upon which Jehovah carved the Law for the Jewish people, amid the lightnings of Sinai?

Maybe you think one might as well ask, "Where is the rod that turned to a serpent in Aaron's hands?"

And yet, a recent discovery makes it appear that these ancient tablets, the most famous documents the world has ever seen, are still preserved.

They are said to be hidden in a cathedral in the ancient city of Axum, in the Abyssinian province of Tigre.

The story of their removal from Jerusalem and their preservation by the Abyssinians is one of the strangest tales ever told.

The Abyssinians have long maintained that they possessed the authentic Arc of the Covenant, containing the Tables of the Law. This claim has now been strengthened by the translation into English, for the first time, of the sacred Scriptures of Abyssinia, the "Fetha Negast," or "Glory of Kings," written in a language so old that only a few of the most learned Abyssinian priests can read it.

This wonderful bible, of which there is but one copy, not only tells of the bringing of the Ark of the Covenant and Tables of the Law from Jerusalem to Abyssinia, but attributes the founding of the royal line of Abyssinian kings to King Solomon himself, through the "Queen of Sheba."

Here, briefly, is the ancient

story of the theft of the Tables of the Law.

Magda, Queen of Sheba (later called Ethiopia and Abyssinia), had gone to Jerusalem, as the Hebrew Scripture tell, to see the glory and hear the wisdom of Solomon. She abode in Jerusalem six months, talking with him daily and seeing his wonderful works. The King and Queen were joined in wedlock. After she returned to her own land she bore a son, whom she named Bainelekhem, "Son of the Wise Man."

When Bainelekhem became a man he was told that Solomon was his father. Then he left his mother and went, with a retinue of young men, to Jerusalem.

He was like unto Solomon, so that as he entered the city the people bowed down, saying, "Lo, the King!" And Solomon, hearing of him, sent messages and received him, saying, "Thou art like unto my father David, in the flower of his youth." And Bainelekhem showed Solomon the rings that Solomon had given Queen Magda for a token, and Solomon knew him for his own son, and named him "David," and would have made him heir to the throne of Israel.

"It were better for thee," said Solomon, "to stay in this country, where stands the House of the Lord, where are the Tables of the Law. And God dwells with us."

But David besought the king to send him back home, for he